

Kennedy wins it after brilliant first half

A FIRST half display of sheer brilliance by Wycombe lacked only goals but frightened Tooting and Mitcham into submission in Saturday's Berget Isthmian League Premier Division match at Loakes Park.

Mick Holifield returned to the side while Tony Price watched from the substitutes bench. Despite all the chances Wycombe created in the first half an hour when their quick moves brought chaos in the Tooting area, the only goal came from Howard Kennedy's free kick in the 54th minute.

Gary Toll, who had been the subject of much kicking, was fouled 25 yards out. Kennedy's free kick powered into the corner of the net as the Tooting wall disintegrated.

The match opened with a flurry of activity around the Tooting goalmouth. Steve Long saw a cross punched clear and when the ball came out to him again his cross drifted onto the cross-bar. It was not properly cleared and the ball fell to Toll whose shot took a slight deflection and slammed against the right hand post.

Curious

Within minutes Wycombe had a strong appeal turned down when a shot by Bobby Dell looked to have been handled. And once again Toll found himself in a goal-scoring position but put his shot into the keeper's arms.

The referee, who made some curious decisions throughout the game, set up a chance when he deflected a Tooting pass to Long. The keeper, Nicky Sullivan,

By MIKE ALLEN Wycombe 1, Tooting & M 0.

gathered the ball well from Long's feet.

Wycombe's first scare in defence came in the 14th minute when, having eluded Lester, Doug Alder's cross also went past two of his own players before being cleared.

Glynn headed just over when he rose to a Birdseye cross and then in the 24th minute Wycombe's best chances came and went.

Sullivan failed to hold Glynn's shot. Toll and Long both saw efforts stopped by a mass of bodies on the line, and when the ball fell to Glynn again his shot looked goal bound, before Sullivan rose from the bundle on the line to pick it out of the air.

Toll missed two more chances in the first half, and five minutes before the break Tooting had a golden opportunity. Derek Williams was not given off-side, but after leaving himself with an open goal, shot wide.

Wycombe took control of the second half and Kennedy scored what proved to be the only goal of the game with that free-kick. Toll could

have made it two but missed with only the keeper to beat, Glynn nearly scored with an ambitious scissors kick and Long headed just wide. He also had a shot from four yards saved by Sullivan's foot.

Blues were given a standing ovation at the end.

WYCOMBE: G. Lester, P. Birdseye, G. Borg, B. Davies, S. Hardwick, B. Dell, S. Long, H. Kennedy, T. Glynn, G. Toll, M. Holifield, Sub: T. Price (not used).

TOOTING AND MITCHAM: N. Sullivan, T. Ford, D. Godwin, B. Pitaway, M. Sorenson, D. Casey, D. Williams, J. Keith, D. Juneman, R. Knowles, D. Alder, Sub: A. Rowbottom (not used).

Referee: A. Coletta (Epsom Downs).

Half-time: 0-0. Scorer: Wycombe — Kennedy (54 mins).

Barr off

AMERSHAM Town defender Ian Barr received his marching orders during his side's goalless draw with Waltham Abbey on Saturday September 20 following a frank exchange of views with the referee. His manager, Richard Jerome, said he "thoroughly deserved it". The incident occurred after Waltham were awarded a penalty, which was missed.



HOWARD KENNEDY
... fierce free-kick